

PROTECTION OF WALLS AND LOCKS OF CANAL AT THE CASCADES OF COLUMBIA RIVER.

MARCH 23, 1896.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. HERMANN, from the Committee on Rivers and Harbors, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany H. Res. 139.]

The Committee on Rivers and Harbors, having considered the resolution (H. Res. 139) authorizing the immediate use of a portion of the unexpended balance of the appropriations heretofore made for the construction of canal and locks at The Cascades of the Columbia River, in construction of protection walls necessary to the opening of said canal and locks to navigation, report:

The said canal is now almost completed and ready to open, but if the same should be opened without first constructing the walls on the land and river sides of the canal, as provided in said resolution, there is danger of rock and débris being washed in and interfering with the workings of the lock gates and other machinery. The board of engineers in its report of October 18, 1895, favor the proposed work. The same has been submitted to the Secretary of War, and by him returned with a letter from the Chief of Engineers, recommending that the improvement be made.

The committee are of opinion that the immediate necessity for the opening of said locks at an early day is of sufficient importance to call for this legislation, and that the portion of the unexpended balance appropriated by this resolution can, with the consent of the contractors, be used to great advantage in making said canal immediately and safely available to navigation.

This resolution has already passed the Senate and has the favorable recommendation of the Department, as shown by the letter of the Chief of Engineers hereto attached and made a part of this report.

The committee recommend that the resolution do pass.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF ENGINEERS, UNITED STATES ARMY,
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith a letter from the Committee on Rivers and Harbors of the House of Representatives of March 13, 1896, inclosing for the views of the War Department thereon H. Res. 139, Fifty-fourth Congress, first session, "Joint resolution authorizing the immediate use of a portion of the unexpended balance of the appropriation heretofore made for construction of canal and locks at The Cascades of the Columbia River in construction of protection walls necessary to the opening of said canal and locks to navigation."

The resolution is practically the same as S. R. 99, upon which report was submitted to the Secretary by me on the 16th instant.

The construction of walls to connect upper lock gate masonry with upper guard gate masonry, Cascades Locks of the Columbia River, forms a part of the additional work contemplated by the modified project which has been recommended by a board of engineer officers and had the approval of the then Chief of Engineers, Gen. T. L. Casey. The additional work proposed by such modified project while increasing the total cost by about 10 per cent, will increase the capacity of the canal about 33 per cent and furnish additional protection from extreme floods.

The work which this resolution proposes to authorize is a part of the additional work of the modified project, and, if done, should be carried out immediately to avoid delays in the opening of the canal.

The passage of this resolution or of Senate resolution No. 99 for the same purpose, is, for the reasons given, recommended.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. P. CRAIGHILL,
Brig. Gen., Chief of Engineers.

Hon. DANIEL S. LAMONT,
Secretary of War.